

Appl. No.: 10/020,897
Filed: December 19, 2001
Amdt. dated 11/04/2005

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted along with a request for one month extension and appropriate fee in response to the Office Action dated July 5, 2005. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 14 and 16 are allowed and that claims 3, 4, 30, 31, 33 and 34 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 5-13, 15, 17-29, 32 and 35-46 currently stand rejected.

As stated above, the Office Action indicated that claims 3, 4, 30, 31, 33 and 34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 3, 4, 30 and 33 to be written in independent form incorporating the recitations of their respective independent claims and all intervening claims. Thus, amended independent claims 3, 4, 30 and 33 are believed to be allowable. Dependent claims 31 and 34 depend directly from amended independent claims 30 and 33, respectively, and are thus allowable at least due to their dependency from allowable amended independent claims 30 and 33. Claim 5 has been amended to depend from amended independent claim 3, and is thus allowable due to its dependency from an allowable independent claim. Claims 6-13 depend indirectly from claim 3, and thus are similarly allowable at least due to their dependency from an allowable independent claim. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejections of claims 6-13 are overcome. Claims 1, 2, 15, 17-29, 32 and 35-46 have been canceled and thus the rejections of claims 1, 2, 15, 17-29, 32 and 35-46 are now moot.

In light of the amendment and the remarks presented above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all now-pending claims of the present application.

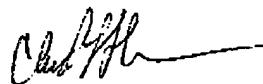
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CONCLUSION

In view of the amended claims and the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

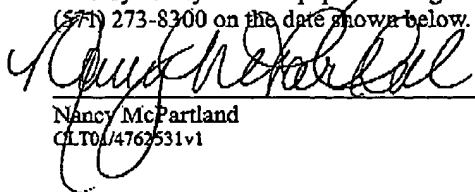


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.


Nancy McPartland
CLT01/4762531v1

11-4-05
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